

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John W. Olver (D-1st District) today said that planning is nearly complete for his bi-annual conference in Washington, D.C. on September 16-17.

"The agenda is set and speakers are confirmed," Olver said. "We're now working on final logistics and details."

"Historic changes are occurring in Washington that will have a direct impact on the economy and the lives of our constituents," Olver said.

Olver's day-long conference will focus on "Making Business Work in an Uncertain Economy" and will include a panel discussion on "Transportation as a Key to Economic Development."

Speakers include **Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta**

and **Deputy Secretary of Commerce Samuel W. Bodman**.

Other speakers include **Gene B. Sperling, former Economic Advisor to President Clinton**.

The conference will also feature a presentation by **U.S. Department of State Spokesman Philip T. Reed** on "Navigating the Roadmap to Peace in the Middle East."

Other speakers include **Senator Edward Kennedy** on "The Business of Health Care by the Numbers."

**Senator Hillary Clinton** will speak on "Our Armed Forces and the Workforce by the Numbers."

**House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi** will speak on "Outlook on the Economy by the Numbers."

**Congressman Barney Frank** will speak on "Linking Interest Rates to the Deficit by the Numbers."

**National Consumers League Vice President for Public Policy** will speak on "Fighting Identity Theft by the Numbers."

Olver is currently working with 1st District Chambers of Commerce, industry leaders and business associations to promote the conference.

"The conference's biggest value is the interaction business people will have with national leaders, and the opportunity to share their views on the challenges facing our economy," Olver said.

###

*For more information, contact Doris Ransford at the Chamber at 413-534-3376 or Nicole Letourneau in the District Office at 413-534-3376.*